Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1707 - April 30 2010

CLOSED CUIRCUIT ADVISORY: A REPORT FROM THE AMATEUR RADIO SUPPORT FUND

This is a closed circuit advisory and no necessarily for air. I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, and I'm here with a financial update on Newsline.

First the good news. As we go to air this week, all the bills through the end of March have been paid. The bad news? As I prepare this report we have only about $220 in our account and come early May, there will not be enough to cover the April bills which will be in the $800 to $1000 range. In reality, not much different than in the months and years past.

In checking the PayPal account, a few moments ago, between April 4th to April 27th we have received only $60 in contributions. And when you deduct the fee charged by Pay Pal, our net income this month was only $57.34. Clearly that's just not enough to make ends meet. And that's also the reason I'm here making this report to you.

We do our part to hopefully bring you the news that you want to hear. But we need your help to keep going. As Amateur Radio Newsline is a 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation, to make a tax deductible contribution is easy. Either send it to us at the address you will hear at the end of this weeks newscast, or go to arnewsline.com ad click on the PayPal logo to make your contribution electronically. Whichever way you choose, the all volunteer staff of Amateur Radio Newsline joins me in saying a big "thank you."

That ends the closed circuit advisory. I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, and now here's Jim Davis, W2JKD, with this weeks report. Jim:

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Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1707 with a release date of Friday, April 30th, 2010 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The comment period begins on an FCC proposal to permit hams to communicate for their employers during emergency training drills, the dates for the 2010 Global Simulated Emergency Tests are announced, a Wisconsin town challenges the tower of a 10 year old ham who suffers from Cerebral Palsy and a phone call clears Radio Kuwait out of the 40 meter ham band. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1707 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RADIO LAW: COMMENT DATE SET IN WT DOCKET 10-72 ON USE OF EMPLOYEE HAMS INDRILLS

The FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making on providing communications on

behalf of an employer during a government-sponsored emergency or disaster drill has finally been published in the Federal Register. Its now time for you to voice your opinion. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reports:

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On April 22, a summary of the Notice of Proposed Rule Making in WT Docket 10 - 72 was published in the Federal Register and starting the clock on the 30 day commentary period and 15 additional day Reply Comment period. Comments are due on or before May 24th with reply comments due by June 7th.

By way of background, back on March 24th, the FCC released the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. It suggests amending the Part 97 rules to permit, under certain limited conditions for hams to transmit messages during emergency and disaster preparedness drills, regardless of whether the operators are employees of entities participating in the drill.

Current rules provide for amateur radio use during emergencies. At the same time, the rules -- specifically section 97.113 (a)(3) -- prohibits communications in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest. This includes any communications on behalf of an employer, whether direct or indirect. Translated it means that even if a ham employee is off the clock he or she cannot take part in emergency training exercises.

The FCC says that while there are some exceptions to this prohibition, there is currently none that would permit amateur station control operators who are employees of public safety agencies and other entities, such as hospitals, to participate in drills and tests in preparation for emergency situations. Nor may they transmit messages on behalf of their employers during such drills and tests.

The FCC notes that public safety land mobile radio systems are the primary means of radio-based communications for emergency responders. But it goes on to add that experience has shown that amateur radio has played an important role in preparation for, during, and in the aftermath of natural and man-made emergencies and disasters.

The FCC says that amateur radio is often an essential element of emergency preparedness and response. Because of this, many state and local governments and public safety agencies incorporate amateur radio operators and their communication capabilities into their emergency planning. In this regard, some entities, such as hospitals, emergency operations centers, and police, fire, and emergency medical service stations, have emphasized the participation of their employees who are amateur station operators in emergency and disaster drills and tests.

Based on what it terms as a public need, the FCC is proposing to amend Section 97.113 of the Amateur Service rules to provide that, under certain limited conditions, amateur radio operators may transmit messages during emergency and disaster preparedness drills. This, regardless of whether the operators are employees of government entities participating in the drill. It also seeks comments on whether certain other drills that are not sponsored by government agencies -- such as those conducted by hospitals --

should be included in the proposed exemption as well.

Again, comments on WT Docket 10 - 72 must be filed on or before May 24th with reply comments due by June 7th.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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Anyone planning to file on WT Docket 10 - 72 should completely read the Notice of Proposed Rule Making before submitting comments. You can access it
at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-45A1.pdf) (N1ND, ARRL, CQ Newsroom, ARNewsline(tm))

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RESCUE RADIO: FCC GRANTS 97.113 WAIVER FOR HAWAII HURRICANE DRILL

Meantime, the FCC has granted the Vice Director of Civil Defense for the State of Hawaii Department of Defense a waiver for section 97.1123 of the Amateur Radio Rules. This, to permit participation of 5 hams directly in the agency's employ, and an unspecified number of others who are employees of other entities associated with emergency communications to take part in a hurricane preparedness exercise between May 24 and June 4th with ham radio operations slated May 29th and June 1st.

In approving the request, Scot Stone, who is Deputy Chief, Mobility Division of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau noted that the public interest is served in facilitating amateur operations in support of this public safety exercise. As such, it warrants this limited waiver of Section 97.113 to permit transmission of communications by the amateur licensees on behalf of their employers on those dates. (FCC)

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RESCUE RADIO: GLOBALSET 2010 DATES ANNOUNCED

The International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 Emergency Communications Group has announced that there will be two Global Simulated Emergency Tests this year. One to be held on the 15th of May and the other on November 13th.

GlobalSET is an opportunity to demonstrate how communications can occur across national borders. It also tests use the emergency Center of Activity Frequencies on the 80, 40, 20, 17 and 15 meter bands, and creates standardized practices for international emergency communications.

Registrations are now being taken for IARU member societies and emergency communications groups to participate in next month's GlobalSET. More is on-line a www.iaru-r1.org. (IARU Region 1)

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WORLDBEAT: IARU INTRUDER MONITOR SYSYEMS CLEARS RADIO KUWAIT FROM 40 METERS

A phone call has ended Radio Kuwait broadcasting in the Amateur Radio 7 MHz allocation.

From April 12th to the 19th, the broadcaster had been transmitting programs in the Arabic language with up to S9+30dB signals. Its signal blocked almost 20 kHz of the 40 meter band from 7150 and 7190 kHz.

Soon reports began to surface of the Radio Kuwait broadcasts in the exclusive amateur spectrum and the matter was reported to the IARU Intruder Watch Monitoring System. Soon, many national coordinators had requested their telecommunications authorities to send International Complaints to the State of Kuwait.

But it was 9K2RR, the IARU Monitoring System Intruder Watch Coordinator in Kuwait who solved the problem. He made a call to Radio Kuwait, explained the situation and asked for a frequency change. And with additional support by DJ9KR, the broadcaster quickly complied. (IARU Region 1)

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BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the KC2RA repeater of the Kings County Repeater Association serving the Big Apple from Staten Island, New York.

(5 sec pause here)

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RADIO LAW: OHIO HAM DETAINED AT NC AIRPORT AFTER HE IS SEEN WITH FIREARM

Police in Ashville, North Carolina have charged a Ohio ham with going armed to the terror of the public. This after he was spotted at an airport parking lot. Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, tells us who the person is and explains what the charge means:

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Joseph Sean McVey, K8JSM, is from the town of Coshocton, Ohio, northeast of Columbus and just south of Akron. McVey, in his posted QRZ.com biography, says he prefers to go by Sean.

The FCC database shows he was first licensed as a Technician in 2008 and upgraded to General in March 2009 and sought a Vanity call sign which just happens to match the initials of his name - Joseph Sean McVey.

McVey is 23 and was released Tuesday, April 27 on 100-thousand-dollars bond by authorities in suburban Asheville, N.C. where he was taken into custody on a misdemeanor charge of going armed to the terror of the public.

The attorney general's office in North Carolina says it essentially means he was carrying a gun for the purpose of terrifying others.

McVey was arrested on Sunday, April 25, near the Asheville Regional Airport

just after Air Force One took off with President Obama and his family on board. They had been in the Asheville area on getaway weekend.

The Secret Service initially wanted McVey detained after law enforcement found him on airport property inside a car made up like a police vehicle with a light bar and siren. It was also equipped with police scanners and other radios.

On April 27, The New York Daily News quoted the Secret Service as saying it didn't consider McVey a threat and passed him off as a law enforcement buff.

The Coshocton Tribune and it's related publications did an exhaustive check on McVey, including examining postings on Facebook, MySpace and Twitter. It found McVey had posted two Tweets on Friday, April 23, from Limestone, N.C., just south of Asheville.

The FCC has a track record of revoking the licenses of amateurs who it considers displaying improper or unacceptable conduct clashing with the good character it expects of all licensed hams.

It's unclear whether the FCC will take any action regarding McVey's license.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

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At the time of his arrest McVey did have a concealed weapons permit that had been issued in Ohio. That permit has been at least temporarily revoked pending the outcome of the case against him. If the charges are not dismissed and if he is convicted, McVey faces a maximum sentence of 120 days in jail. His next court appearance is scheduled for June 10th. (ARNewsline(tm), NT3V, various news reports)

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RADIO LAW: WISCONSIN CITY CHALLENGES 10 YEAR OLDS TOWER AND ANTENNA

A Wisconsin's pre-teen ham who suffers from cerebral palsy could loose his tower and antenna system over a dispute with the city. But the family of 10 year old Samuel Markstrom, KC9POP, is fighting back by saying that their sons hobby has changed his life by building his self confidence.

Village leaders say the Markstrom's didn't have the proper permits to build 62 foot tower that sits in their backyard in Mount Pleasant. But his mother Catherine Markstrom, KC9EOW, says that everything had gone in, to their knowledge very legally. She also notes that there are days when her son cannot get outside to play and he gets really depressed and upset. Now she is worried her son will have to give up his indoor hobby as well.

But the tower is opposed by at least one neighbor. News reports quote Eric Scott lives directly next door to the Markstrom's. He claims that he is worried that the tower could topple over while his own chils was playing in his yard. KC9POP's parents counter by saying the tower is rated to withstand hurricane force winds and that there isn't a danger.

In his on-line bio on QRZ dot com, Samm as he calls himself says that he is

active in Boy Scouts as well as volunteering at WI9VCR, which is the Volunteer Center of Racine County. He says that his favorite bands are 10 and 6 meters but he is also active in repeaters in the Racine, Kenosha and Milwaukee repeaters. And according to one news report, the fifth grader has also been active in public service by spreading the word about last summer's Kenosha tornadoes. For that effort he was presented an award by the volunteer center.

The future of the Samm Markstrom's tower will be decided by the Village of Mount Pleasant's zoning board in June. (JournalTimes.com, eHam.net)

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RADIO CRIME: COPPER THIEVES TAKE KC TV STATION KMBC OFF THE AIR

Copper thieves were responsible for taking Kansas City television station KMBC off the air last weekend . Police responding to a burglar alarm Sunday evening April 25th found a large section of 2 inch conduit cut away from the side of the transmitter building and green coolant spilled across the adjoining area.

The tubing was part of KMBC's transmitter system that circulated coolant around two final amplifier tubes valued at close to $40,000. A sensor that detected the sudden loss in pressure shut down the transmitter. Whether the shutdown happened in time to save the tubes is a question that KMBC Director of Engineering Jerry Agresti said won't know until repairs are made to the cooling system and a thorough evaluation of the transmitter is done.

One thing Agresti says that he is sure of. Either the robbers knew exactly what they were doing or were incredibly brazen. The coolant used for the transmitters final amplifiers gets very hot and the burglars could have easily been scalded by it. (KC.com)

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HAM RADIO ON THE NET: CONTESTING 101 WEBINAR MAY 7TH

Kirk Pickering, K4RO, the National Contest Journal's Contesting 101 column editor will shares tips and tricks for the beginning contest operator. This during an on-line Web Seminar or Webinar slated for Friday, May 7th at 9 PM Eastern Daylight Time.

All you need is your PC, speakers, and a high speed Internet connection. To take part you must register in advance on line at tinyurl.com/2685ld9

The on-line Webinar is sponsored by the Potomac Valley Radio Club and is free to anyone wanting to take part. Registration is free. Questions or comments can be sent to k4zw (at) comcast (dot) net. (PVRC)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: SCHOOL CLUB EUROPEAN UNION DAY MAY 5th

The annual School Club European Union Day will take place on May

5th. School Club European Union Day fosters contacts with and between school amateur radio clubs and training centers and gives them the opportunity to contact other amateur stations around Europe. It's planners say that it is a great way to get young operators on the air from their school stations. An English version of the rules for this event can be found at tinyurl.com/2u6x86c. (Southgate)

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HAMVENTION NEWS: D-STAR LINK APPROVED

The Dayton Hamvention has received approval from the D-Star reflector owners to link its W8BI system to the 30-B reflector over the Hamvention weekend.

If you would like to follow the D-Star activity in Dayton over Hamvention weekend, please use a linked repeater or link your DV Dongle to the 30-B reflector. Please do not link directly to the W8BI gateway.

This is the second year such a D-Star link will be in place. All questions and comments on what is happening go to Mark Erbaugh via r-mail to microenh (at) hughes (dot) net. (D-Star Reflector, WB9QZB)

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HAMVENTION NEWS: ONE DAY TECH CLASS TO BE TAUGHT AT HAMVENTION 2010

A one-day Technician class will be held at Hamvention 2010. Slated for Saturday, May 15th, the class will be taught by Mitch Stern, W1SJ, from 8 AM to 4 PM behind the Luso Tower in the East Hall. Exams will be conducted at the conclusion of class and a new Technician class license should be issued by the next day just in time to do some last minute radio shopping. Pre-enrollment for this course is required via the Internet tinyurl.com/2dska2l (Hamvention Reflector)

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NEW PRODUCT: 75 METER AM TRANSCEIVER KIT

And here's something you do not see very often. A new full carrier amplitude modulated transceiver for the 75 Meter band. Recently launched by Dave Benson K1SWL of Small Wonder Labs, lovers of AM can now get on the 75 with a 2.5 watt AM transceiver kit that costs less than $70.

The transmitter is crystal-controlled with 3885 kHz supplied. The receiver is varicap tunable over a 50 kHz, selectable range and comes with a 4 kHz crystal filter for ample selectivity.

According to K1SWL, while you won't expect to work DX with this transmitter, it's fine for area communication. On his website Dave notes that the two most distant QSOs to date from his home in New Hampshire have been Maine and Long Island, New York. Both were 30-minute ragchews with good copy both ways.

Full details on this kit at is on line at smallwonderlabs.com/Retro-75.htm or by regular mail to Small Wonder Labs, P.O. Box 187, Newport New

Hampshire, 03773. (Press release)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD: DON JOHNSON, W6AAQ, INVENTOR OF THE SCREWDRIVER ANTENNA - S.K.

Don Johnson, W6AAQ, inventor of the screwdriver mobile antenna died Wednesday, April 14th. He had been ill for several months and was 91 at the time of his passing.

According to Al Melcher, W6ARM, when the FCC first authorized H-F mobile, a group of hams in the San Francisco Bay area decided to go mobile on 75 meters. They chose 3 point 995 MHz as an operating frequency to reduce the possibility of high power fixed stations interfering. And it was W6AAQ who came up with the idea of using a metal tube with a whip on top of a coil that fit inside the tube. By raising and lowering the coil a resonant point could be found.

Johnson was searching for a method of tuning the antenna remotely when W6MHP suggested using the motor from a cordless screwdriver. Thus the "screwdriver mobile antenna" was born. Johnson received a patent on the device and built and sold thousands.

Don was a retired navy radioman and pilot who lived in Esparto, a small community in Northern California west of Sacramento. He was to be buried with full military honors at the National Cemetery in Dixon, California. A memorial service will be held for W6AAQ in July. (QRZ.com, others)

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WORLDBEAT: UK GROUP ENDS PACKET OPERATION DO TO DECLINE IN INTEREST

Call this one a sign of the times. This with word that Steve Perkins, G4FPV and Stewart Wilkinson, G0LGS have decided that due to the continued decline in Packet Radio activity that they will end Packet Radio Nodes and BBS facilities in and around the North Gloucestershire and South Worcestershire regions of the United Kingdom.

Going away on May 31st will be the G4FPV Node, the GB7GLO AX 25 Bulletin Board and the GB7LGS combination Node and Bulletin Board Service. All three systems have served the region for close to 20 years.

While the Internet with its high speed delivery of e-mail has generally replaced Packet Radio as a messaging system, in some areas of the world the

Automatic Position Reporting System or APRS has kept many Packet Nodes alive. But as can be seen by this announcement, conversion to APRS is not taking place at every Packet Radio site.

The notice of this closure has also been made on the Gloucestershire Repeater Group web site. Its in cyberspace at http://www.grg.org.uk/news.php?readmore3 (Southgate)

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WORLDBEAT: SHANGHAI BANS TWO WAY RADIO NEAR WORLD EXPO 2010 SITE

Shanghai city leaders say that the city is to impose controls on devices capable of transmitting radio waves from 12 pm on April 30th through 12 am on May 2 and again on October 1st and 30th. This, to ensure the proper operation of facilities inside the 2010 World Expo site.

During these periods, items such as walkie-talkies, industrial remote controls, amateur radio stations and even school broadcasts will be banned within 500 meters of the Expo site. The only exception will be for cellular mobile phones which officials say will not be affected.
 (Eastday.com)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SWISS TISAT BASED ON ALINCO HT READY FOR LAUNCH

The Swiss Amateur Radio CubeSat TIsat-1 built by students in Ticino is ready for launch from India later this spring. TIsat-1 will fly on the PSLV-C15 launcher from the Sriharikota Space Center into a planned 670 km sun synchronous orbit with an inclination of 98.5 degrees.

The satellites communications system is based on an Alinco DJC-6 dual band hand held transceiver. The downlink power will be 400 milliwatts on 437.305 MHz. It will send its call sign HB9DE in CW and transmit AFSK telemetry from its on-board experiments. The satellites uplink will be at 145.98 MHz. (ANS)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SOUTH AFRICA AMSAT ANNUONCES NEW HAM-SAT

And South Africa AMSAT has announced that it will be building its own ham radio CubeSat. The project will involve radio amateurs and school students. The currently proposed payload includes a transponder with a 30 kHz bandwidth, a telemetry beacon and several science projects, but that's subject to change from the South African ham community. At this stage in the project SA AMSAT is inviting input from that nations amateur radio community before the final payload is decided on, and project teams will then be set up. If you are a South African ham and interested in becoming involved, you are invited to send an email with your contact details and areas of expertise to saamsat (at) intekom (dot) co (dot) za.

(SA AMSAT)

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DX

In DX, F5TGR will operate portable FM from Martinique through May 6th. His operation is holiday style. That means he is on vacation and will operate as time is available using CW and SSB on 40 through 10 meters. QSL direct or via bureau to F5TGR.

JK2VOC, will be active as portable BW2 from Taiwan between June 18th and the 20th. If you work him QSL direct to his home callsign.

A four man team will be operational from the Azores as CR1FSC through May 2nd. QSL via CU3EQ, either direct or by the bureau.

DL7VOX is on from the island of Usedom and its lighthouses until May 11th. If you work him please QSL via his home call, either direct or via the bureau.

And talk about a long tongue twister of a callsign. SP2QCW, is operating as HF2010WECK in all modes on all bands during the World Enduro Championships off-road motorbike race. He will be active until June 30th. QSLs SP2QCW either direct or via bureau.

(Above from various DX News sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: CFL'S VS TV REMOTES

And finally this week, a story from the United Kingdom about an unseen phantom taking control of television sets. But it wasn't a ghost or goblin. It was light bulbs as we hear from Jason Daniels, VK2LAW:

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Some feared it must have been a problem with their remote. Others suspected ghostly goings-on.

But when TV viewers complained their sets were changing channel by themselves, few could have guessed the real culprit - their light bulbs.

Low-energy bulbs can make your television turn over the station at random, according to customers. Among the first to spot the problem were UK cable customers Alistair and Emma Clements.

They rang their supplier, Virgin Media, and were told the problem could be because of the Philips low-energy light bulb fitted nearby.

But while changing it helped, the couple say the channel still flips from time to time even though the nearest low- energy bulb is now in another room.

Experts say infra-red light from modern fluorescent bulbs can be 'mistaken' by electrical equipment for commands from its remote. They warn that while moving or changing the offending device usually solves the problem, the proliferation of gadgets in homes increases the likelihood of such

interference.

Traditional bulbs produce infra-red too, but because they don't 'flicker' like some fluorescent bulbs there is no danger of interference with electrical equipment.

This weird and wonderful occurrence is akin to a problem my next door neighbor had soon after he had a pace maker installed. Every time I changed TV stations he would do cartwheels in his lounge!

I'm Jason, VK2LAW.

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So far nobody we have heard about in North America has complained about low energy compact fluorescent lamps causing this kind of problem. One of the reasons most likely is that North America uses 60 Hertz AC rather than the 50 Hertz used in the U-K and the flicker rate is far harder for a TV remote receiver to be fooled by. (WIA News)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), 28197 Robin Avenue, Santa Clarita California, 91350

Before we go, a reminder that the nominating period for the 2010 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award closes on May 30th. That gives you only about a month to nominate a deserving teen or pre-teen radio amateur for this yearly honor.

Each year, we here at the Amateur Radio Newsline in association with Vertex Standard Corporation -- the makers of Yaesu brand ham radio gear -- and CQ Magazine combine to honor a ham radio operator age 18 or younger for his or her contributions to ham radio or to society itself through ham radio.

All nominations and materials required by the official rules must be received by Amateur Radio Newsline no later than midnight on May 30th. Both "mail-in" and electronic submissions are being accepted this year. Full rules and a downloadable nominating form are now on our website at www.arnewsline.org. Just scroll down until you see "2010 Young Ham of the Year Awards Now Being Accepted" and click on the word "here" to download the directions and the form. You can also leave questions and comments on the official Young Ham of the Year Award page on Facebook dot com.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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